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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach the text of an excerpt relating to the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, from a press release issued at the sixty-sixth session of the Council of Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Riyadh from 7 to 8 March 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Excerpt relating to the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, from a press release issued at the sixty-sixth session of the Council of Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Riyadh from 7 to 8 March 1998

The Council of Ministers has considered the evolution of the situation concerning the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belong to the United Arab Emirates but are occupied by Iran. Once again, it strongly deplores the fact that no progress has been made on this matter, because the Islamic Republic of Iran persists in its refusal to respond to the many serious, sincere appeals made by the United Arab Emirates, the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other regional organizations and institutions with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Reaffirming the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and renewing its full support for all the peaceful measures taken by the United Arab Emirates to restore their sovereignty over these islands, the Council of Ministers again requests the Iranian Government to put an end to the occupation of the three islands, to renounce its policy of fait accompli, to stop building installations for the purpose of changing the demographic composition of the islands and to destroy the ones it has built, to annul all the unilateral measures it has adopted and to settle the conflict by peaceful means, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, by agreeing, inter alia, to bring the case before the International Court of Justice.